

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

M&T Chico Ranch/Llano Seco Rancho Fish Screen and Pump Facility Short-Term Protection Project Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (EA/IS)

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) are holding two public scoping meetings to solicit input for the EA/IS on the M&T Chico Ranch/Llano Seco Rancho Fish Screen and Pump Facility Short-Term Protection Project. We encourage the public and other agencies to participate in the scoping process by sending written suggestions and information on the issues and concerns that should be addressed in the EA/IS, including the range of alternatives, appropriate mitigation measures, and the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

Date: Thursday, September 27, 2012

Time: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. (duplicative sessions with presentations beginning at 2:30 and 7:30)

Location: Chico Masonic Family Center, 1110 West East Avenue, Chico, CA

There will be a presentation at each session, starting at 2:30 for the afternoon session and 7:30 for the evening session. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and provide input following each presentation. The presentation will include a general overview of the proposed project, purpose and need, description of proposed actions, description of the proposed project area, and approaches for avoiding and minimizing impacts to the environment.

Under the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, CDFG and USFWS will provide documentation in alternate formats to individuals with disabilities. To obtain such services, please contact Tina Johnson, CDFG ADA Disability Program Coordinator, at 916-651-1214.

Please submit your comments on the proposed project and issues to be addressed in the EA/IS in writing at the Public Scoping Meeting, or send your comments by mail or e-mail so that they are received no later than Thursday, October 25th, 2012, to Dianne Simodynes at the Contact address below. If you would like to receive additional project information and a copy of the EA/IS, you must notify Dianne Simodynes at the address below.

Dianne Simodynes

2379 Gateway Oaks, Suite 200

Sacramento, CA 95833

Phone: 916.679.8838

Email: M&TLlanoSecoProject@hdrinc.com

Project Background: The CDFG and USFWS propose to implement interim measures to maintain the viability of the M&T Chico Ranch/Llano Seco Rancho Fish Screen and Pump Facility (M&T Facility) located on the east bank of the Sacramento River at approximately River Mile 192.5, downstream of the confluence of Big Chico Creek and approximately six miles southwest of the City of Chico. The M&T Facility withdraws water from the Sacramento River for delivery to agricultural lands, USFWS Refuge and easement lands, and CDFG Wildlife Areas. Without this facility these areas would not have an adequate water supply to support the existing +4,000 acres of wetland habitat (which supports numerous non-migratory wildlife species and 300,000 to 500,000 of migratory waterfowl). An expanding gravel bar on the Sacramento River is threatening the normal operation and regulatory compliance of the M&T Facility and the City of Chico Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) outfall located approximately 1,500 feet further downstream. In addition, the river channel was migrating westward, away from the M&T Facility, and was threatening to isolate it from the Sacramento River. This westward migration is currently being controlled by a rock toe and tree revetment that was installed in 2007 along the west bank of the Sacramento River, opposite from the M&T Facility.

The proposed project is needed to maintain and protect the M&T Facility until the environmental review process for a long-term solution can be completed. We have initially identified the following measures to maintain the function of the M&T Facility:

- Removal of gravel bar material from the river in order to maintain the functionality of the M&T Facility pumps, and the maintain the functionality and regulatory compliance of the M&T Facility fish screen
- Maintenance of the existing rock toe and tree revetment to prevent further westward migration of the river and potential subsequent isolation of the M&T Facility until a long-term solution is developed and completed.